REMARKS

Claim 1, the sole independent claim in this Application, has been amended to further define the invention and thereby expedite prosecution of the Application. More specifically, Claim 1 has been amended to further define the amalgam retainer as being formed from ceramic paper. The amalgam retainer can be formed by cutting from a sheet of ceramic paper into the form of a plug having a thickness of, for example, 1/8 inch. The amalgam retainer plug is inserted into the amalgam tip by compressing it to the correct diameter. Such a construction has advantages over the prior art, including improved handling of the amalgam retainer during manufacturing of the lamp. Support for this amending is found throughout the Specification, in particular, page 4, line 2 and FIG. 2.

Claims 1-2 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by JP54069271 ('271).

The Examiner is of the opinion that the '271 reference discloses an arc discharge lamp with an arc chamber, an amalgam tip attached to and communicating with the arc chamber through a constricted area, an amalgam retainer in the arc chamber abutted against the constricted area, the amalgam retainer being vibration-insensitive, solid and liquid amalgam impervious and mercury vapor pervious and an amalgam contained within the tip.

Applicant respectfully submits that the '271 reference cited by the Examiner as anticipating the instant invention, does not contain all of the material elements recited in Applicant's claims. With particular attention to FIGS. 1 and 2, the '271 reference relates to a high-pressure sodium vapor discharge lamp having an exhaust tube 4 which is filled with ceramic fibers 8 or the like so that sodium amalgam is attached to the surface of the ceramic fibers and captured thereby. Applicant submits that the '271 reference fails to disclose, for example, an amalgam retainer of ceramic paper as recited in present Claim 1. In view of the above, Applicant submits that the rejection with respect to present Claim 1 is deemed improper since the '271 reference does not satisfy the essential

requirement for a proper rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b). Allowance of independent Claim 1 is respectfully urged.

With particular attention to Claim 2, Applicant respectfully submits that the '271 reference does not specifically mention an amalgam retainer comprising a ceramic felt. Allowance of dependent Claim 2 is also urged.

Claims 3-7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP54069271 ('271) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,828,169, which issued to Myojo et al (Myojo).

The Examiner states that the '271 reference fails to clearly point out a retainer comprising ceramic felt fibers of mixed aluminum and silicon oxides with a diameter of <10 microns. Myojo is cited by the Examiner as disclosing the use of ceramic felt fibers <10 microns diameter of mixed aluminum and silicon oxides in order to remove particulate matter from high temperature gases. The Examiner concludes that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the lamp of the '271 reference with a retainer being aluminum and silicon oxides in order to form pseudo-cores to prevent supercooling of the amalgam, the retainer with the diameter of the fibers being <10 microns in order to restrict the movement of the mercury atoms and the amalgam includes bismuth and indium in order to freely set the temperature at which the amalgam functions as taught by Myojo.

The above rejection is respectfully traversed and reconsideration thereof is requested. Applicant respectfully submits that there is no teaching, suggestion, or motivation for modifying the cited references in the manner proposed by the Examiner.

Myojo relates to a low pressure mercury vapor filled discharge lamp comprising a barrier means for restricting movement of mercury atoms between the amalgam and the discharge space corresponding to switching on and off of the lamp. In FIG. 2B, the barrier means includes a container 2 having only one opening 3 formed at an end of the container along the lengthwise direction. A porous filter 22a comprising an aggregate of particles selected from the group consisting of zeolite, porous glass and oxide particles is provided in the opening of the container.

Applicant respectfully submits that under 35 U.S.C. § 103, teachings of references can be combined only if there is some suggestion or incentive to do so. There is no teaching, suggestion, or motivation for modifying the high-pressure sodium vapor lamp of the '271 reference with aggregate particle filter of the low-pressure mercury vapor lamp of Myojo as proposed by the Examiner.

Additionally, even if one were to assume, arguendo, that one of ordinary skill in the art would have been led to the combination proposed by the Examiner, one would still not arrive at the instant invention because the resulting combination would not meet all of the limitations recited in the Claims. For example, the combination would not include an amalgam retainer comprising ceramic paper.

Applicant's Claims 3-7 are dependent on independent Claims 1, and therefore include all recitations thereof. Moreover, Applicant's dependent claims include additional limitations that, when combined with the recitations in Claim 1, render these claims further distinct and non-obvious over the cited references. For example, Myojo fails to teach or suggest an amalgam retainer comprising ceramic felt having fibers with a diameter <10 microns. Unlike the ceramic felt comprising fibers of mixed aluminum and silicon oxides, Myojo discloses an aggregate of particles. Therefore, Claims 3-7 are likewise deemed allowable.

The Application with Claims 1-7 is deemed in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully urged. Should the Examiner believe that minor differences exist which, if overcome, would pass the Application to allowance and that said differences can be discussed in a phone conversation, the Examiner is respectfully requested to phone the undersigned at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

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